



# *The HPD News*

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## **New Program Puts More Patrol Cars on the Street**

The Fleet Management Division implemented an incentive-based pay program for garage technicians and technical staff. The West Quadrant Pilot Program allows a quicker turnaround for vehicles under service and puts more patrol vehicles on the streets. The following locations are participating in the program: North, Northwest, Westside, and Southwest police stations.

Under the program, designated employees are paid on the basis of productivity and performance. They are still guaranteed a base pay of 40 weekly hours with full-time benefits. The mechanics have performance expectations and are compensated on the basis of their work.

Pleas Jenkins, police administrator for the Fleet Management Division, says the program is a result of the division's success in submitting the lowest bid to service vehicles for the Houston Police Department and the Houston Fire Department. "The implementation of the West Quadrant Pilot Program is unique and we feel that we are pioneers in a process from which all city departments can benefit," said Jenkins. He also states that once the division begins servicing fire department vehicles in 2003, the estimated annual savings for both HPD and HFD will be around \$300,000, and he hopes that this will be an additional factor for the program's success.

The new program has increased the availability of vehicles for the police department since the program began on October 12, 2002. For more information about the West Quadrant Pilot Program, contact Pleas Jenkins at (713) 247-5811.



**The West Quadrant Pilot Program provides incentive to get HPD vehicles serviced quickly and back on patrol.**

## **Environmental Unit Cleans Up Houston's Streets**

A popular anti-littering campaign says, "Don't Mess with Texas" and in Houston it would be wise to not mess with HPD's Environmental Unit. "It was set up to deal with solid waste dumping such as trash along the side of the road," said Officer Stephen Dicker of the Environmental Unit. "It was getting out of hand. Kids were getting hurt playing on piles of trash where there were boards with nails or glass."

Since its inception in 1993, the unit has received about 17,000 calls. Officer Dicker said some violators have received jail time while others have paid hefty fines. One of the largest fines ever paid was \$1.3 million by a company that specialized in building and repairing vessels in the Houston Ship Channel. Some of the money collected by fines has been used to fund environmental projects like planting sea grass in Galveston Bay or building parks near schools.

The Environmental Unit, which is part of the Major Offenders Division, has a community liaison that regularly holds seminars informing businesses about environmental laws. To report illegal dumping or a pollution problem, call the Environmental Unit hotline at (713) 525-2728.

## Chief's Column

by Acting Chief of Police T. N. Oettmeier

As we reflect back on this past year, we should be mindful of a couple of significant points. First and foremost, we should be thankful for the health and well-being of our families and friends. Without their support and understanding, our respective jobs would be much more difficult to perform. Second, we are in the business of helping people. How we provide that help varies in accordance with the type of work we do and when and where it is done. Each of us should look back upon this past year and feel comfortable that we have done our very best to help as many people as possible. Lastly, as we look forward to 2003, I encourage each of you to continue working diligently to make our department one you can be proud of. Our department can only be as good as the collective effort we expend in making it the best it can be.

I want to personally wish each of you and your families a happy holiday season and a joyous New Year.

## HPD Gets New Web and E-mail Addresses

*Houston Police Online*, the official Web site of the Houston Police Department, has a new, user-friendly address: [www.houstonpolice.org](http://www.houstonpolice.org). The old domain name ([www.houstonpolicedepartment.com](http://www.houstonpolicedepartment.com)) will still work for a short time, but users should start updating their bookmarks now. HPD's e-mail address has changed to [hpdmedia@cityofhouston.net](mailto:hpdmedia@cityofhouston.net), and the official e-mail address for public information requests is [hpd.openrecs@cityofhouston.net](mailto:hpd.openrecs@cityofhouston.net).

Citizens may be referred to the HPD Web site ([www.houstonpolice.org](http://www.houstonpolice.org)) when they wish to research crime statistics in their area, learn more about HPD's services and divisions, read the HPD newsletter, or find phone numbers, addresses, and maps to most HPD facilities.

## HPD Officer Kicks It Up A Notch!



**Officer Ed Swannie (Community Services) in his other uniform.**

Houston Police Officer Ed Swannie handles various Community Services Division assignments during his regular shift. But at night, he lives out his life-long dream to sauté and marinate his way into our hearts through our taste buds. Officer Swannie is enrolled in the Culinary Arts program at the Art Institute of Houston with the goal of becoming a gourmet chef.

"I started taking the classes as a way to increase my knowledge of cooking since I have a real passion for it," said Officer Swannie. "I've always had an intriguing desire for creating special dishes at home, but I wanted to know more about the theology of cooking such as the reason for choosing a particular seasoning over another," he added.

Officer Swannie would someday like to own his own Italian-style restaurant. He particularly loves Italian cuisine because of the combination of spices and other ingredients used to prepare a meal. He says that even though the recipes appear difficult, the food has been kept simple over the years. Bon appetit!

## This Month In HPD History: December



**Eva Jane Bacher was HPD's first female officer.**

In December 1928, one Houston police officer was single-handedly responsible for the following:

- Arresting 67 shoplifters and recovering \$842.50 worth of stolen property
- Arresting 20 forgery suspects
- Arresting 15 vagrancy suspects
- Arresting 1 lunacy suspect
- Handling 82 juveniles

Officer Eva Jane Bacher, the first female Houston police officer, joined the department in 1918. Prior to that, the department only had "police matrons." Officer Bacher became the department's first female detective in 1921. She worked in the Public Morale and Safety Squad where she would visit movie theatres to investigate complaints of men harassing women. She also would talk to women at their homes about family problems they were experiencing.

In 1929, Bacher left HPD to become the house detective at the Rice Hotel where she remained for many years. It was not until 1934 that another female officer, Ann Carmichael, joined the department. Bacher died in 1968.

## P.A.N.D.A. Honors Officers and Volunteers At Reception

The Parents and Neighbors Defense Alliance (P.A.N.D.A.) will host the 9<sup>th</sup> annual P.A.N.D.A. Police Officer and Volunteer Awards Reception on Wednesday, December 22, 2002. The reception will be held at 3 p.m. at the Sociedad Mutualista Obrera Mexicana Community Center at 5804 Canal Street. The ceremony recognizes individuals who have provided an invaluable service to their community to maximize child safety efforts under the guidelines of the programs created by P.A.N.D.A.

This year's recipients are Officer A. C. DeAlejandro (South Central) for Officer of the Year and Lupe Martinez (Roy Martinez Elementary School) for Volunteer of the Year. Carolyn Webster (Garden Villas Elementary School) and Sally Pena (Burnett Elementary School) will be recognized with P.A.N.D.A. certificates.

P.A.N.D.A. is coordinated through the Community Outreach Division. For more information about the program or the awards reception, contact Mamie Garcia at (713) 308-9108.

## HPD Storefront Officers Distribute Toys To Needy Kids

Houston police officers from the Northline Park Storefront will play Santa Claus on December 19<sup>th</sup> when they distribute toys to needy children in their community.

The toy collection drive is a collaboration of efforts among neighboring civic groups and police officers. Throughout the year, officers attending the Hispanic P.I.P. (Positive Interaction Program) meetings and other community events have asked civic groups to provide them a list of families in need.

Eleven families will gather at the Northline Park Storefront to participate in what, for many, will be the only opportunity for their children to receive toys for Christmas.

Sergeant Frank Escobedo said many of the storefront officers have been participating in this worthwhile endeavor for more than a decade. "It gives us a sense of giving back to a community," said Sergeant Escobedo. "Many members of the community bring us toys and donations for their neighbors who are in the most need."

Sergeant Escobedo said anyone wishing to donate to the toy collection can call him or any of the Northline Park Storefront officers at (281) 272-4250.

# Where Does All That Stuff Go?

If you have ever had to discard an item from your office or recover one from another division, chances are you spoke to Francisco Balleza, supervisor of surplus and salvage for HPD's Property and Supply Division. "People call me every day because they are looking for a chair or they want to get rid of broken furniture," said Balleza. "And every time I explain to them that there is a new system that makes it easier and unnecessary for them to call me."

A circular was distributed last February explaining that divisions "must post surplus property and/or equipment [on the HPDNET] system prior to filing a request for salvage." Everything (except for vehicles and computers) must be listed here regardless of its condition. Your division's Inventory Coordinator must do the following:

- Access the main menu of the HPDNET and click on the icon resembling a page in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. It should read "News and Notices" when the cursor is on it.
- Once in the menu, look under the subtitle "Applications" and click on "Application Systems."
- On that menu, click on "Surplus Property Posting" and follow the instructions.

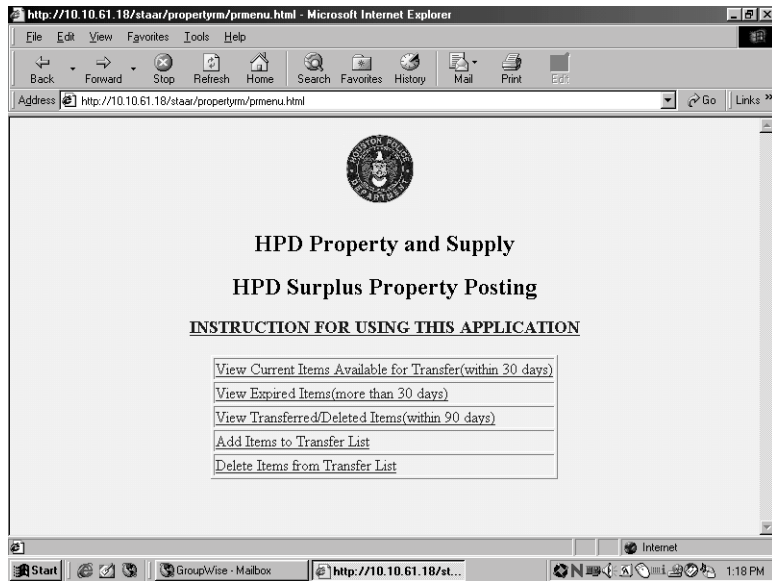
To find an item for your division that may soon be discarded elsewhere in the department, do the following:

- On the main menu of the HPDNET, pull down the menu under "Support" and select "Property Room."
- Select "Links."
- Select instructions or choose your function.
- Once you find an item that you need, call the number of the division that posted the information.

If you encounter any problems while browsing for city-owned property, call the Computer Services Help Desk at (713) 247-8500.

Items that are posted for more than a month are automatically deleted from the system. The division that posted the item is then responsible for completing the request for salvage. Division managers must send correspondence to Mr. Balleza via their chain of command attached to form F&A097, which can be obtained at Office Supplies. The correspondence subject line is "Transfer of city-owned property."

Mr. Balleza is available to answer any questions at (713) 247-5272.



**The Surplus Property Posting is easy to access on the HPD intranet via your network PC. You can use the application to search for current items available for transfer and to add items from your division to the transfer list.**